

CLAIMS

1. A method of producing a retinyl ester compound comprising subjecting a composition comprising retinol or a retinyl ester and a fat or oil of animal or vegetable origins to enzyme catalysed trans-esterification in solvent free conditions to produce a retinyl ester.
- 10 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the fat or oil of animal or vegetable origin contains one or more C₁₂₋₂₂ saturated or unsaturated fatty acids.
- 15 3. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the enzyme is a lipase enzyme.
4. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the enzyme is immobilised on a support.
- 20 5. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the fat or oil of animal or vegetable origin contains a fatty acid triglyceride.
- 25 6. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the source of the fatty acid is kombo nut oil, coriander oil, sunflower oil, safflower oil, pomegranate seed oil, Manketti nut oil, fish oil, borage oil, pine nut oil or Impatiens balsamina seed oil or calendula seed oil.

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7. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the enzyme is immobilised on a solid support.
8. A fat or oil of animal or vegetable origin containing a
5 retinyl ester of fatty acids contained in the fat or oil.
9. A retinyl ester of a fatty acid prepared according to the method of any of claims 1 to 7.
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10. A topical composition for application to human skin containing a retinyl ester prepared according to the method of any of claims 1 to 7 or according to Claims 8 or 9.
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11. A conjugated or nonconjugated C18:3 and/or C18:4 retinol fatty acid ester.
12. A cosmetic method of treating human skin comprising
20 applying thereto a topical composition according to claim 10.
13. A method of providing at least one skin care benefit selected from: treating/preventing wrinkling, sagging,
25 aged and/or photodamaged skin; boosting collagen deposition on skin, boosting decorin production in skin; soothing irritated, red and/or sensitive skin; improving skin texture, smoothness and/or firmness; providing anti-inflammatory benefits; enhancing skin differentiation; reducing sebum production; or the prevention or treatment of acne; comprising applying
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thereto a retinyl ester made according to any of claims
1 to 7, or according to any of claims 8 to 11.